



Representative Kelly Moller, Chair  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
February 28, 2023

Chair Moller and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW - MN), we are writing in support of House File 1712, a bill that supports young people by funding prevention and intervention services.

NASW - MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing over 2000 social workers. Our members work as mental health professionals, in child welfare systems, schools, hospitals, and residential care. We offer experience and expertise in the connection between children and the systems in which they interact.

As our code of ethics states, "Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living." We believe individuals have dignity and worth, and when we intervene with young people who have been harmed, we increase their potential for future success. House File 1712 will allow social workers to support young people and their families when they are harmed by trauma or face other barriers that put their future success at risk. Specifically, we appreciate the grant opportunities provided in this bill to support programs that:

- Provide wraparound services to ensure at-risk youth receive full support.
- Offer culturally competent support for youth victims of trauma.
- Work directly with youth who have experienced or caused violence to provide intervention and healing services, decreasing the likelihood of future incidents.
- Provide education, training, and counseling designed to reduce domestic and family violence and assist victims of that violence.
- Support single parents or peer-to-peer support for parents.
- Support children of incarcerated parents.
- Work to disrupt the cycle of violence.

When we invest in early intervention and prevention strategies, we reduce trauma and empower young people. In turn, this strengthens our communities. Please support HF 1712. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen E. Goodenough".

Karen E. Goodenough, PhD, LGSW  
Executive Director  
NASW-MN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Arneson".

Jenny Arneson, MSW, LGSW  
Legislative Consultant  
NASW-MN